GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:459
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON CLASSICAL LANGUAGES
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed a Committee of Experts to look into the issue on conferring "classical" status to some languages particularly Telugu and Kannada;

(b) if so, the details of the meetings of the Committee held so far;

(c) the issues deliberated in these meetings and outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its final report?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 459 FOR 24.04.2008 REGARDING COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

(a) to (d) The Government has, on 1.11.2004, constituted a Committee of Linguistic Experts to consider the future demands for categorization of languages as classical languages. Representations received from several quarters for conferring classical status on Telugu and Kannada languages have been forwarded to the said Committee. The Committee has held two meetings on 13.01.2005 and 04.05.2005. In these meetings, the Committee mainly discussed the criteria for classifying a language as classical language and sought certain clarifications from the Government which have since been provided to the Committee. The representations received in this regard are required to be thoroughly studied,scientifically cross-checked by the experts and their opinion is awaited. As the whole process is elaborate, no deadline can be fixed for this purpose.